



NEWS RELEASE

MAINE DISTRICT OFFICE

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SBA SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR TOP BUSINESS AWARDS

Augusta, ME -- The Maine District office of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has begun its search for successful entrepreneurs who will become Maine's Small Business Person of the Year for 2008 and will travel to Washington, D.C. next spring to compete for national honors. The awards will be presented at Maine's Annual Small Business Week Awards Celebration, held in the spring.

Nominees for this award must meet certain criteria that include sustainable success, gains in employment and sales, innovation, response to adversity, and contributions to the community. According to Michael Boulet, owner of Mainely Trusses in Fairfield, Maine's 2007 Small Business Person of the Year, "Being named Small Business Person of the Year for the State of Maine was both a surprise and a honor. It was personally satisfying to see both the company and employees recognized for the positive contributions we've made to our community and to the state's economy. Our recognition has reinforced our reputation with our client base and strengthened Mainely Trusses. I encourage you to nominate a deserving Maine company for the 2008 SBA Salute to Small Business."

Additional nominations for special business awards are sought for Small Business Exporter, Young Entrepreneur, Entrepreneurial Success and the Jeffrey H. Butland SBA Family-Owned Small Business of the Year. These awards provide an excellent opportunity to recognize outstanding entrepreneurs in your community and to say thank you to a small business person for a job well done.

The Maine District office also seeks nominations for its 2008 champion awards targeting individuals in Maine who have used their professional skills or personal talents to further public understanding and awareness of small business. Categories include; minority small business champion, women in business champion, veteran small business champion, financial services champion, home-based business champion and small business journalist.

The nomination form and award criteria can be viewed at www.sba.gov/me. The information will be listed in the "spotlight" section on the Maine SBA homepage. Self-nominations are accepted for these awards. For more information on the nomination procedure contact Bonnie Erickson at 622-8275.

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